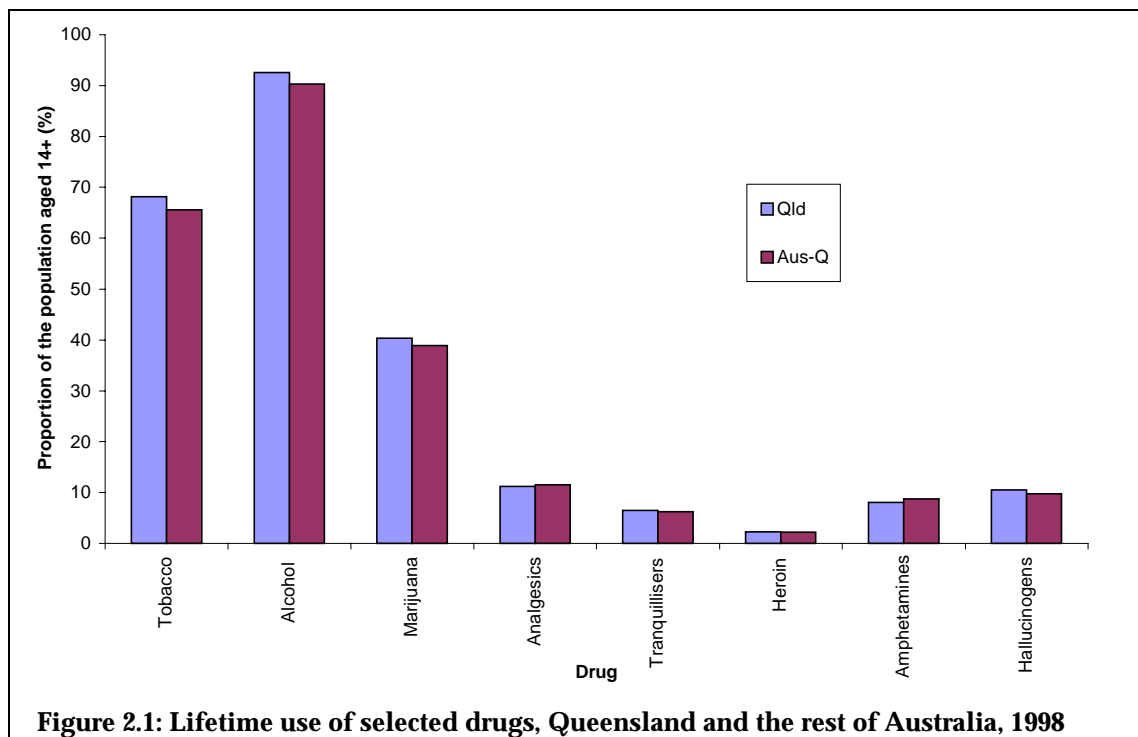


# 2 Overview—the status of drug use in 1998

The drugs most preferred, approved of, and used most by persons living in Queensland were the licit drugs: tobacco and alcohol (Figure 2.1). Overwhelmingly, the use of illicit drugs was not approved of and increased penalties for the sale and supply of these drugs were supported. Most persons living in Queensland did not want illicit drugs legalised and illicit drugs were more likely than licit drugs to be associated with the concept of a drug ‘problem’.



## Lifetime use of drugs

The term ‘lifetime use’ refers to use at least once in a person’s lifetime. The term ‘recently used’ refers to use in the last 12 months.

- The licit drugs, **tobacco** and **alcohol**, were the substances used most by persons living in Queensland in 1998. The proportion of users of both tobacco (68.2%) and alcohol (92.6%) increased between 1995 and 1998.
- For the illicit drugs, rates were generally higher in Queensland in 1998 than in 1995. For example, **marijuana/cannabis** (1995 26.9%, 1998 40.3%), **tranquillisers** (1995 2.5%, 1998 6.5%), **amphetamines** (1995 3.6%, 1998 8.1%), **hallucinogens** (1995 4.2%, 1998 10.5%) and **ecstasy** (1995 1.5%, 1998 3.8%) all increased by at least 50%.

- In the rest of Australia in 1998, proportions of lifetime users were generally similar to Queensland results with the exceptions of **methadone** (Qld 0.7%, Aus-Q 0.4%) and **injecting** drug users (Qld 3.0%, Aus-Q 1.9%).

**Table 2.1: Summary of drug use: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, and mean age of initiation, Queensland and the rest of Australia, 1995, 1998**

Drug/ behaviour	Lifetime use				Recent use				Mean age of initiation			
	1995		1998		1995		1998		1995		1998	
	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q
	(per cent)								(mean years)			
Tobacco	65.3	<b>61.9</b>	<b>68.2</b>	65.6	27.2	<b>26.7</b>	<b>27.6</b>	25.1	15.7	<b>15.3</b>	<b>15.6</b>	15.7
Alcohol	87.9	<b>87.6</b>	<b>92.6</b>	90.3	79.0	<b>75.4</b>	<b>83.3</b>	82.9	17.3	<b>17.1</b>	<b>16.9</b>	17.2
Marijuana/cannabis	32.1	<b>26.9</b>	<b>40.3</b>	38.9	13.9	<b>10.4</b>	<b>17.7</b>	17.9	19.1	<b>19.4</b>	<b>18.9</b>	18.8
Analgesics <sup>(a)</sup>	12.8	<b>10.3</b>	<b>11.2</b>	11.5	3.8	<b>2.1</b>	<b>5.2</b>	5.2	18.6	<b>21.3</b>	<b>18.2</b>	20.1
Tranquillisers <sup>(a)</sup>	3.4	<b>2.5</b>	<b>6.5</b>	6.2	0.7	<b>0.6</b>	<b>2.7</b>	3.0	23.9	<b>22.5</b>	<b>20.8</b>	24.2
Steroids <sup>(a)</sup>	0.6	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.6</b>	0.8	0.2	—	<b>0.2</b> *	0.2	19.3	<b>15.1</b>	<b>16.1</b>	22.1
Barbiturates <sup>(a)</sup>	1.3	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.6</b>	1.6	0.2	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>	0.2	19.5	<b>16.9</b>	<b>18.8</b>	19.9
Inhalants	2.2	<b>3.1</b>	<b>4.2</b>	3.8	0.4	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.8</b>	0.9	15.9	<b>16.8</b>	<b>18.1</b>	17.5
Heroin	1.5	<b>1.0</b>	<b>2.3</b>	2.2	0.4	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.6</b>	0.8	20.6	<b>20.5</b>	<b>20.1</b>	21.9
Methadone <sup>(b)</sup>	(c)	(c)	<b>0.7</b>	0.4	(c)	(c)	<b>0.4</b>	0.1 *	(c)	(c)	<b>24.8</b>	21.0
Amphetamines <sup>(a)</sup>	6.2	<b>3.6</b>	<b>8.1</b>	8.8	2.4	<b>0.8</b>	<b>3.1</b>	3.7	20.2	<b>20.1</b>	<b>20.4</b>	19.9
Cocaine	3.4	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.5</b>	4.5	1.0	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.7</b>	1.5	21.4	<b>19.3</b>	<b>22.4</b>	22.2
Hallucinogens	5.8	<b>4.2</b>	<b>10.5</b>	9.8	2.1	<b>0.8</b>	<b>2.5</b>	3.1	19.2	<b>18.1</b>	<b>19.4</b>	18.7
Ecstasy	2.6	<b>1.5</b>	<b>3.8</b>	4.9	1.0	<b>0.3</b>	<b>1.4</b>	2.6	22.9	<b>20.5</b>	<b>22.7</b>	22.7
Injected illegal drugs	1.4	<b>0.9</b>	<b>3.0</b>	1.9	0.7	<b>0.2</b>	<b>1.0</b>	0.7	(c)	(c)	<b>18.4</b>	21.6
None of the above	7.7	<b>9.4</b>	<b>5.3</b>	7.0	14.9	<b>18.1</b>	<b>14.7</b>	14.0	..	..	..	..

\* RSE greater than 50%.

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

## Drugs recently used (in the last 12 months)

- Between 1995 and 1998, patterns of licit drug use in Queensland remained stable for **tobacco** at around 27% and rose for **alcohol** by 8 percentage points to 83.3%.
- With the exception of cocaine (which decreased slightly), proportions of recent users of illicit drugs rose between 1995 and 1998. **Marijuana/cannabis** increased by 70% from 10.4% in 1995 to 17.7% in 1998. **Analgesics, tranquillisers, barbiturates, heroin, amphetamines, hallucinogens, ecstasy, and injecting** drugs all appear to have increased by at least 100% between 1995 and 1998.

- Patterns of recent drug use in the other States and Territories combined were generally consistent with those in Queensland in 1998. Exceptions include **methadone**, where Queensland proportions were four times larger than those in the rest of Australia. For **cocaine** and **ecstasy**, proportions were approximately twice as large in the other States and Territories combined than they were in Queensland.

### Age of initiation—ever used

The mean ages at which persons living in Queensland first used drugs for non-medical purposes remained stable for most drugs between 1995 and 1998. Exceptions included:

- **analgesics**, where the mean age at which persons first used the drug decreased from 21.3 to 18.2 years;
- **tranquillisers**, where the mean age of first use decreased from 22.5 to 20.8 years;
- **barbiturates**, where the mean age of first use increased from 16.9 to 18.8 years;
- **inhalants**, where the mean age of first use increased from 16.8 to 18.1 years;
- **cocaine**, where the mean age of first use increased from 19.3 to 22.4 years; and,
- **ecstasy**, where the mean age increased from 20.5 to 22.7 years.

The substances with the largest age differences between Queensland and the rest of Australia included:

- **tranquillisers**, with an average mean age of 20.8 years in Queensland and 24.2 years in the other States and Territories;
- **steroids**, 16.1 years in Queensland and 22.1 years elsewhere;
- **methadone**, 24.8 years in Queensland and 21.0 years elsewhere; and,
- **injecting drugs**, 18.4 years in Queensland and 21.6 years in the rest of Australia.

### Age of initiation—novice users

The mean ages at which novice users—that is, persons aged 14 to 30 years who first used in the previous 3 years—living in Queensland first used drugs remained stable for most drugs between 1995 and 1998.

In Queensland:

- For the licit drugs, **tobacco** and **alcohol**, ages of initiation remained relatively stable at 15.0 years and 15.6 years respectively between 1995 and 1998.
- Mean ages for selected illicit drugs were generally within 1 year between 1995 and 1998. The exception to this was for novice **amphetamine** users where the mean age of initiation dropped from 22.1 to 19.8 years, and novice **ecstasy** users where the mean age dropped from 24.0 to 20.8 years.
- In 1998, the age of initiation for female novice users for most substances was younger than the corresponding age for males. The exceptions to this were **alcohol**, where females (15.7 years) were slightly older than males (15.5 years) when they had their first drink, and **amphetamines**, where females (20.3 years) were on average approximately one year older than males (18.9 years) when they first used.

**Table 2.2: Novice drug users:<sup>(a)</sup> mean age of initiation, selected drugs by sex, Queensland and the rest of Australia, 1995, 1998**

Drug	Males				Females				Persons			
	1995		1998		1995		1998		1995		1998	
	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q
	(mean years)											
Tobacco	15.6	<b>15.0</b>	<b>15.4</b>	16.1	15.4	<b>15.1</b>	<b>15.1</b>	15.6	15.5	<b>15.0</b>	<b>15.3</b>	15.8
Alcohol	15.3	<b>15.5</b>	<b>15.5</b>	15.6	15.8	<b>15.6</b>	<b>15.7</b>	15.6	15.5	<b>15.5</b>	<b>15.6</b>	15.6
Marijuana/ cannabis	16.7	<b>16.6</b>	<b>16.9</b>	16.4	17.3	<b>16.2</b>	<b>16.8</b>	16.8	16.9	<b>16.4</b>	<b>16.8</b>	16.6
Heroin	23.5	<b>18.5</b>	<b>20.4</b>	23.2	18.7	—	<b>19.1</b>	17.4	19.7	<b>18.5</b>	<b>19.7</b>	20.3
Amphetamines	19.6	<b>23.3</b>	<b>18.9</b>	19.6	19.3	<b>21.0</b> <sup>(b)</sup>	<b>20.3</b>	18.5	19.5	<b>22.1</b>	<b>19.8</b>	19.2
Cocaine	21.3	<b>23.5</b>	<b>23.4</b>	22.4	21.5	—	<b>21.4</b>	20.5	21.4	<b>23.5</b>	<b>22.6</b>	21.5
LSD/synthetic hallucinogens	18.2	<b>18.6</b>	<b>19.1</b>	18.3	19.2	<b>21.0</b> <sup>(b)</sup>	<b>18.8</b>	18.6	18.5	<b>20.0</b>	<b>19.0</b>	18.4
Ecstasy	21.5	<b>24.0</b>	<b>21.2</b>	20.3	21.3	—	<b>20.4</b>	20.2	21.4	<b>24.0</b>	<b>20.8</b>	20.3

(a) Respondents aged 14–30 years; first use previous 3 years.

(b) Estimate subject to extreme sampling variability.

- Between 1995 and 1998 the mean age of initiation for most substances for male novice users increased slightly. The mean age of initiation for **heroin** use increased over this period from 18.5 years to 20.4 years, while mean ages for initial use of both **amphetamines** (23.3 to 18.9 years) and **ecstasy** (24.0 to 21.2 years) decreased.
- For female novice users, mean ages remained fairly stable between 1995 and 1998. **Marijuana/cannabis** ages of initiation rose slightly to 16.8 years, and **LSD/synthetic hallucinogens** dropped from 21.0 to 18.8 years. However, this result must be considered with caution because of small sample sizes.

Compared to the rest of Australia:

- Ages of initiation in Queensland for novice users were similar to those in other Australian states in 1998.
- For male novice users with the exception of heroin, ages of initiation for Queensland and the rest of Australia were equal to or within one year of each other. Compared to Queensland ages, mean ages for the rest of Australia were higher for the licit drugs and generally lower for the illicit. **Heroin** (20.4 Qld, 23.2 Aus-Q) and **amphetamines** (18.9 Qld, 19.6 Aus-Q) were the only exceptions where there was a large difference between Queensland and the rest of Australia.
- The pattern of age of initiation for **heroin** was reversed for female novice users. Mean ages were higher in Queensland (19.1 years) than in the rest of Australia (17.4 years). Ages of initiation for most other substances for female novice users were generally consistent between Queensland and the rest of Australia in 1998, with the exception of **amphetamines** which was, on average, almost 2 years later in Queensland (20.3 Qld, 18.5 Aus-Q).

## Preferred drugs

In 1998 respondents to the survey were asked what their favourite or preferred drug was and, if it was not available, what their second choice was (Table 2.3).

**Table 2.3: Preferred drugs of choice: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by sex, Queensland and the rest of Australia, 1998**

Drug	Males				Females				Persons			
	First choice		Second choice		First choice		Second choice		First choice		Second choice	
	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q
	(per cent)											
Tobacco	14.4	<b>16.2</b>	<b>12.4</b>	9.3	17.4	<b>18.3</b>	<b>9.1</b>	9.1	15.9	<b>17.2</b>	<b>10.8</b>	9.2
Alcohol	50.5	<b>51.5</b>	<b>20.2</b>	19.1	37.4	<b>35.2</b>	<b>19.2</b>	17.6	43.8	<b>43.4</b>	<b>19.7</b>	18.4
Amphetamines <sup>(a)</sup>	0.2	—	<b>0.5 *</b>	1.1	0.2	<b>0.3 *</b>	<b>1.2</b>	0.5	0.2	<b>0.2 *</b>	<b>0.8</b>	0.8
Steroids <sup>(a)</sup>	0.1 *	—	<b>0.4 *</b>	0.1 *	—	<b>0.1 *</b>	—	—	—	—	<b>0.2 *</b>	0.1 *
Benzodiazepines <sup>(a)</sup>	—	—	—	0.1 *	0.1 *	—	—	0.1 *	—	—	—	0.1 *
Marijuana/cannabis	5.4	<b>5.8</b>	<b>7.5</b>	9.0	2.8	<b>3.9</b>	<b>7.4</b>	6.6	4.1	<b>4.9</b>	<b>7.5</b>	7.9
Heroin	0.2	<b>0.6</b>	—	0.3	—	<b>0.1 *</b>	<b>0.3 *</b>	0.1 *	0.1 *	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.2 *</b>	0.2
Methadone <sup>(b)</sup>	0.1 *	—	—	0.1 *	—	—	<b>0.3 *</b>	—	—	—	<b>0.1 *</b>	—
Other opiates	0.1 *	—	<b>0.1 *</b>	—	—	—	<b>0.1 *</b>	—	—	—	<b>0.1 *</b>	—
Cocaine	0.1 *	<b>0.1 *</b>	<b>0.2 *</b>	0.6	0.1 *	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.3 *</b>	0.4 *	0.1 *	<b>0.3 *</b>	<b>0.3 *</b>	0.5
Hallucinogens	0.3	<b>0.2 *</b>	<b>1.0</b>	0.5	0.1 *	<b>0.1 *</b>	<b>0.4 *</b>	0.5	0.2	<b>0.2 *</b>	<b>0.7</b>	0.5
Inhalants	—	—	<b>0.2 *</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	<b>0.1 *</b>	—
Ecstasy	0.8	<b>0.2 *</b>	<b>0.2 *</b>	0.7	0.5	<b>0.4</b>	—	0.3 *	0.6	<b>0.3 *</b>	<b>0.1 *</b>	0.5
None	27.8	<b>25.3</b>	<b>57.1</b>	58.9	41.5	<b>41.2</b>	<b>61.6</b>	64.6	34.7	<b>33.2</b>	<b>59.3</b>	61.6

\* RSE greater than 50%.

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

In 1998, Queensland results varied only marginally, if at all, compared to the other Australian States and Territories combined.

- Approximately 60.6% of persons living in Queensland chose **tobacco** or **alcohol** as their first preferred drug; 30.5% chose them as their second choice.
- Of the illicit drugs, only **marijuana/cannabis** was chosen by more than 1.0% of Queensland respondents as either their first (4.9%) or second (7.5%) choice.
- Approximately one-third of Queensland respondents chose **no drug** as their first choice and 59.3% chose **no drug** as their second preference. Respondents were more likely to choose no drug than tobacco as their first preference in both Queensland and the rest of Australia.
- The first drug of choice for both males and females in Queensland was **alcohol**, although males (51.5%) were more likely to choose it than females (35.2%).

- Females were more likely to nominate **no drug** at all than any one particular drug for either their first or second choice in Queensland.
- Queensland proportions were generally consistent with other States and Territories combined for preferred drug of choice.

## Drugs thought to be associated with a drug ‘problem’

Respondents were asked to name the drug they thought of when people talked about a drug ‘problem’ (Table 2.4). Between 1995 and 1998 there was a major shift in public perceptions of which drugs were primarily associated with a drug problem. In 1998 people living in Queensland nominated heroin as the primary drug associated with a drug problem (30.1%), overtaking marijuana/cannabis (23.7%), which was the primary drug in 1995.

**Table 2.4: Proportion of the population aged 14 years and over who associate specific drugs with a drug ‘problem’, by sex, Queensland and the rest of Australia, 1995, 1998**

Drug	Males				Females				Persons			
	1995		1998		1995		1998		1995		1998	
	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q
	(per cent)											
Tobacco	5.2	1.2	6.0	4.0	5.1	3.7	4.6	3.8	5.1	2.4	5.3	3.9
Alcohol	14.9	13.2	17.9	14.2	11.4	15.0	14.9	13.0	13.1	14.1	16.4	13.6
Marijuana/cannabis	28.0	43.0	25.0	19.5	30.0	30.1	22.5	21.0	29.0	36.5	23.7	20.3
Analgesics	0.8	1.4	0.2 *	0.4	1.4	1.0	1.0	0.4	1.1	1.2	0.6	0.4
Tranquillisers	1.1	0.3	0.4 *	0.5	1.9	1.6	1.6	0.7	1.5	1.0	1.0	0.6
Steroids	0.1	—	0.5 *	0.4	—	—	0.3 *	0.3	0.1	—	0.4	0.3
Barbiturates	0.4	0.3	0.5 *	0.1 *	0.6	0.2	0.2 *	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.3 *	0.2
Inhalants	0.2	—	—	0.2 *	0.3	—	0.3 *	0.3	0.2	—	0.2 *	0.3
Heroin	28.8	25.5	28.3	39.8	29.0	24.9	32.0	38.4	28.9	25.2	30.1	39.1
Amphetamines	3.3	2.4	14.8	12.8	4.0	3.0	11.5	12.9	3.7	2.7	13.1	12.8
Cocaine	7.0	4.3	2.4	4.2	5.6	7.8	4.7	3.8	6.3	6.1	3.6	4.0
Naturally occurring hallucinogens	—	—	0.5 *	0.4	—	0.4	0.3 *	0.3	—	0.2	0.4	0.3
LSD/ synthetic hallucinogens	0.7	1.2	0.5 *	0.4	1.0	0.9	2.6	1.5	0.9	1.0	1.6	1.0
Ecstasy	—	—	1.3	1.0	0.2	—	0.8	1.5	0.1	—	1.0	1.3
Tea/coffee/caffeine	0.3	—	0.4 *	0.3	0.3	—	0.2 *	0.3	0.3	—	0.3 *	0.3
Drugs other than listed above	7.0	4.0	0.3 *	1.2	7.4	10.1	1.2	1.1	7.2	7.0	0.8	1.2
None/can't think of any	2.2	3.2	1.0	0.4	1.7	1.4	1.3	0.7	2.0	2.3	1.1	0.6

\* RSE greater than 50%.

Note: In 1995 the question was open ended; in 1998 as a fixed list.

In Queensland:

- After marijuana/cannabis, the next most frequently nominated drugs were **alcohol** (16.4%), **amphetamines** (13.1%), **tobacco** (5.3%), and **cocaine** (3.6%).
- **Heroin** overtook **marijuana/cannabis** between 1995 and 1998 as the drug most commonly associated with a drug problem. **Tobacco** (2.4% to 5.3%) doubled for Queensland respondents between 1995 and 1998, and **cocaine** fell by almost half (6.1% to 3.6%) in its association with a drug problem.
- In 1998, females were more likely than males to select **analgesics** (1.0%), **tranquillisers** (1.6%), **heroin** (32.0%), **cocaine** (4.7%), and **LSD/synthetic hallucinogens** (2.6%) as drug problems.
- Between 1995 and 1998, the proportion of females nominating **heroin** (24.9% to 32.0%), **amphetamines** (3.0% to 11.5%), and **LSD/synthetic hallucinogens** (0.9% to 2.6%) as associated with a drug problem increased substantially. Both **marijuana/cannabis** and **cocaine**, as drug problems, decreased substantially for females across this period.
- For males, there were large increases in the proportion who associated **amphetamines** (2.4% to 14.8%) and **tobacco** (1.2% to 6.0%) with a drug problem. Relatively smaller increases were recorded for **alcohol** (13.2% to 17.9%), and **heroin** (25.5% to 28.3%). As with females, the proportion of males who associated **marijuana/cannabis** (43.0% to 25.0%) and **cocaine** (4.3% to 2.4%) with a drug problem decreased.

Compared to the rest of Australia:

- The proportions of persons who associated specific drugs with a drug problem in Queensland were generally consistent with the other Australian States and Territories combined. Exceptions to this included **heroin**, which was 9 percentage points higher in the rest of Australia (39.1%) than in Queensland (30.1%), and **marijuana/cannabis**, which was lower in the rest of Australia (20.3%) than in Queensland (23.7%).

## Acceptability of drug use

The licit drugs, alcohol and tobacco, were considered the most acceptable for regular use by adults in 1998 (Table 2.5). With the exception of **marijuana/cannabis**, fewer than one in 10 people living in Queensland aged 14 years or older in 1998 thought that regular use of illicit drugs by adults was acceptable.

In Queensland:

- The licit drugs, **tobacco** (41.4%) and **alcohol** (61.5%), were the drugs most likely to be found acceptable in 1998.
- Of the illicit drugs, **marijuana/cannabis** (25.8%) was the only substance that had acceptability levels above 10%.
- Between 1995 and 1998, levels of acceptability increased for all drugs except for **tobacco** which dropped slightly (42.8% to 41.4%) and **heroin** which dropped from 2.3% to 1.8%.
- Where increases did take place, the majority were by at least 50%, for example, **tranquillisers** (2.1% to 5.1%), **amphetamines** (1.6% to 3.2%), **cocaine** (1.2% to 2.3%), **naturally occurring hallucinogens** (2.3% to 4.4%), **LSD/synthetic hallucinogens** (1.0% to 3.2%), and **ecstasy** (0.9% to 2.7%).

- Without exception, in 1998 males found drug use more acceptable than females. For example, the proportion of males who considered **steroid** use acceptable (4.0%) was eight times the proportion of females (0.5%).
- The changes that occurred between 1995 and 1998 differed for males and females. Acceptability generally increased for males, with the exception of **alcohol** (70.6% to 68.7%) and **steroids** (4.4% to 4.0%). Proportions also generally increased for females, with the exception of **tobacco** (43.2% to 40.5%), **heroin** (2.6% to 0.9%), **cocaine** (1.7% to 1.3%), and **inhalants** (0.6% to 0.4%).

**Table 2.5: Proportion of the population aged 14 years and over who find regular drug use by adults acceptable, by drug, by sex, Queensland and the rest of Australia, 1995, 1998**

Drug	Males				Females				Persons			
	1995		1998		1995		1998		1995		1998	
	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q
	(per cent)											
Tobacco	40.2	<b>42.4</b>	<b>42.3</b>	41.7	37.3	<b>43.2</b>	<b>40.5</b>	37.8	38.7	<b>42.8</b>	<b>41.4</b>	39.8
Alcohol	62.0	<b>70.6</b>	<b>68.7</b>	67.4	47.1	<b>49.4</b>	<b>54.3</b>	55.0	54.5	<b>59.9</b>	<b>61.5</b>	61.1
Analgesics <sup>(a)</sup>	7.2	<b>8.7</b>	<b>10.6</b>	10.2	5.2	<b>6.0</b>	<b>8.7</b>	8.7	6.2	<b>7.3</b>	<b>9.7</b>	9.5
Tranquillisers <sup>(a)</sup>	4.6	<b>2.5</b>	<b>6.2</b>	7.3	2.6	<b>1.8</b>	<b>4.0</b>	3.8	3.6	<b>2.1</b>	<b>5.1</b>	5.5
Steroids <sup>(a)</sup>	1.9	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.0</b>	3.9	0.9	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.5</b>	1.0	1.4	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.3</b>	2.4
Barbiturates <sup>(a)</sup>	2.1	<b>1.8</b>	<b>3.1</b>	2.6	1.8	<b>0.6</b>	<b>1.0</b>	0.6	2.0	<b>1.2</b>	<b>2.1</b>	1.6
Marijuana/cannabis	28.2	<b>31.3</b>	<b>30.1</b>	30.5	19.0	<b>16.7</b>	<b>21.4</b>	20.6	23.5	<b>23.9</b>	<b>25.8</b>	25.4
Heroin	2.6	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.6</b>	2.9	1.3	<b>2.6</b>	<b>0.9</b>	0.8	1.9	<b>2.3</b>	<b>1.8</b>	1.8
Amphetamines	2.8	<b>1.9</b>	<b>4.2</b>	4.8	1.4	<b>1.3</b>	<b>2.2</b>	1.5	2.1	<b>1.6</b>	<b>3.2</b>	3.1
Cocaine	2.4	<b>0.7</b>	<b>3.4</b>	3.9	1.0	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.3</b>	1.0	1.7	<b>1.2</b>	<b>2.3</b>	2.4
Naturally occurring hallucinogens	5.0	<b>2.7</b>	<b>6.5</b>	6.4	2.4	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2.4</b>	2.2	3.7	<b>2.3</b>	<b>4.4</b>	4.3
LSD/synthetic hallucinogens	3.5	<b>1.5</b>	<b>4.4</b>	4.5	1.3	<b>0.6</b>	<b>2.0</b>	1.3	2.4	<b>1.0</b>	<b>3.2</b>	2.9
Ecstasy	3.5	<b>1.5</b>	<b>3.8</b>	5.3	1.2	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1.6</b>	1.5	2.3	<b>0.9</b>	<b>2.7</b>	3.4
Inhalants	1.0	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1.5</b>	1.7	0.8	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.4</b>	0.3	0.9	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.9</b>	1.0
Methadone <sup>(b)</sup>	(b)	(b)	<b>2.9</b>	2.8	(b)	(b)	<b>0.7</b>	0.7	(b)	(b)	<b>1.8</b>	1.8

(a) Non-medical use.

(b) Non-maintenance, not asked in 1995.

Compared to the rest of Australia:

- The proportions of acceptability for drug use were generally consistent in both 1995 and 1998 between Queensland and the rest of Australia.

## Support for the legalisation of illicit drugs

Between 1995 and 1998, support for the legalisation of illicit drugs generally increased (Table 2.6, Figure 2.2).



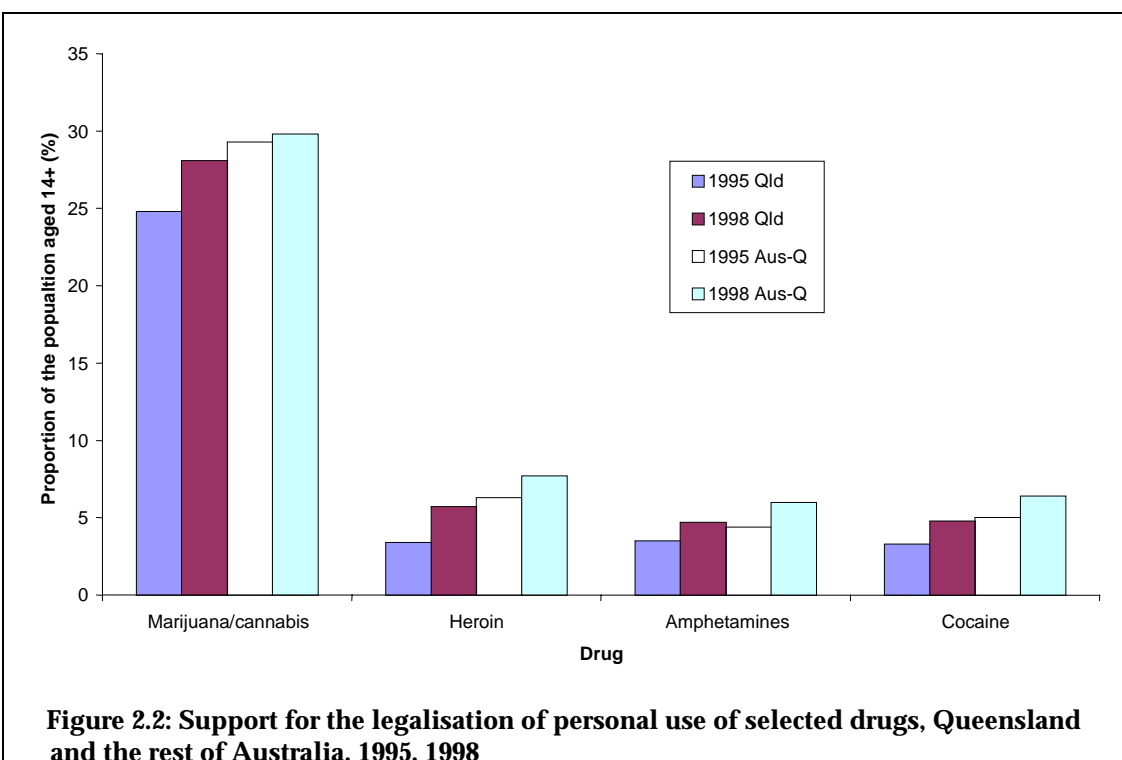
In Queensland:

- With the exception of **marijuana/cannabis** (28.1%), less than one in 10 persons supported the personal use of illicit substances in 1998.
- However, there were increases in levels of support for all substances between 1995 and 1998.
- In 1998, males were more likely than females to support the personal use of all substances surveyed. **Marijuana/cannabis**, for example, was approximately 7 percentage points higher for males (31.5%) than for females (24.8%).
- For male respondents in 1998, the proportion that supported the personal use of selected illicit substances increased considerably from 1995. The trend for females over this period was not as great as it was for males.

**Table 2.6: Proportion of the population aged 14 years and over who support<sup>(a)</sup> the personal use of selected drugs being made legal, by sex, Queensland and the rest of Australia, 1995, 1998**

Drug	Males				Females				Persons			
	1995		1998		1995		1998		1995		1998	
	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q
	(per cent)											
Marijuana/cannabis	31.1	25.7	31.5	34.1	27.7	23.9	24.8	25.7	29.3	24.8	28.1	29.8
Heroin	6.6	2.8	6.2	8.9	6.0	4.1	5.2	6.6	6.3	3.4	5.7	7.7
Amphetamines	4.6	2.1	5.3	7.1	4.3	4.8	4.1	5.0	4.4	3.5	4.7	6.0
Cocaine	4.9	2.1	5.2	7.4	5.0	4.4	4.4	5.3	5.0	3.3	4.8	6.4

(a) Strongly support and support.



**Figure 2.2: Support for the legalisation of personal use of selected drugs, Queensland and the rest of Australia, 1995, 1998**

Compared to the rest of Australia:

- Between 1995 and 1998, the proportion of respondents who supported the personal use of selected drugs remained constant.
- Persons from the rest of Australia were consistently more likely than Queenslanders to support the personal use of selected drugs being made legal.

## Nominal distribution of a drugs budget

Respondents were asked, if they were given \$100 to be spent on education, law enforcement and treatment, how they would distribute the amount for each drug in a selected list (Table 2.7).

**Table 2.7: Preferred distribution of a hypothetical \$100 for reducing drug use, selected drugs, Queensland and the rest of Australia, 1995, 1998**

Substance	1995		1998	
	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q
	(\$)			
<b>Alcohol</b>				
Education	42.80	<b>39.30</b>	<b>43.10</b>	43.90
Treatment	28.50	<b>27.90</b>	<b>30.30</b>	30.80
Law enforcement	28.70	<b>32.80</b>	<b>26.60</b>	25.30
<b>Tobacco</b>				
Education	51.50	<b>50.40</b>	<b>48.80</b>	50.60
Treatment	29.80	<b>29.20</b>	<b>31.00</b>	30.20
Law enforcement	18.70	<b>20.40</b>	<b>20.20</b>	19.20
<b>Marijuana/cannabis</b>				
Education	45.90	<b>45.20</b>	<b>43.90</b>	46.00
Treatment	24.60	<b>21.60</b>	<b>25.00</b>	25.20
Law enforcement	29.50	<b>33.20</b>	<b>31.10</b>	28.80
<b>Amphetamines</b>				
Education	39.30	<b>35.30</b>	<b>36.20</b>	39.10
Treatment	23.10	<b>21.10</b>	<b>23.50</b>	24.60
Law enforcement	37.60	<b>43.60</b>	<b>40.30</b>	36.30
<b>Heroin/cocaine</b>				
Education	36.50	<b>33.30</b>	<b>33.20</b>	36.00
Treatment	24.50	<b>20.90</b>	<b>23.90</b>	25.20
Law enforcement	39.00	<b>45.80</b>	<b>42.90</b>	38.80

In Queensland:

- Respondents identified education as the highest priority for **alcohol** (\$43.10), **tobacco** (\$48.80), and **marijuana/cannabis** (\$43.90), but law enforcement for **amphetamines** (\$40.30) and **heroin/cocaine** (\$42.90) in 1998.
- This was broadly consistent with the priorities in 1995; funds proposed for education went up in 1998 and remained first priority for **alcohol**, while funding for treatment and law enforcement was reversed.

Compared to the rest of Australia:

- Queensland patterns were consistent with the rest of Australia with the exception of **amphetamines** where a higher proportion of funding was allocated to education (\$39.10) than for treatment (\$24.60) or law enforcement (\$36.30).

In general, persons living in Queensland were more likely to spend their money on law enforcement, rather than education or treatment, in 1998.

## Support for increased penalties for the sale or supply of illicit drugs

In 1998, respondents were asked to consider to what extent they would support or oppose increased penalties for the sale or supply of a selected group of illicit drugs. Between 1995 and 1998, there was a decline in the level of support for increased penalties for the sale or supply of illicit drugs (Table 2.8). However, the vast majority of people living in Queensland still supported increased penalties in 1998.

**Table 2.8: Support<sup>(a)</sup> for increased penalties for the sale or supply of selected drugs, proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by sex, Queensland and the rest of Australia, 1995, 1998**

Drug	Males				Females				Persons			
	1995		1998		1995		1998		1995		1998	
	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q
	(per cent)											
Marijuana/cannabis	59.6	<b>61.2</b>	<b>55.6</b>	55.2	64.1	<b>68.9</b>	<b>61.9</b>	63.4	61.9	<b>65.1</b>	<b>58.8</b>	59.4
Heroin	85.7	<b>87.3</b>	<b>84.2</b>	84.8	87.8	<b>89.2</b>	<b>85.3</b>	85.4	86.8	<b>88.2</b>	<b>84.8</b>	85.1
Amphetamines	85.3	<b>85.0</b>	<b>81.8</b>	81.7	87.5	<b>89.2</b>	<b>84.0</b>	83.6	86.4	<b>87.1</b>	<b>82.9</b>	82.7
Cocaine	84.5	<b>87.3</b>	<b>83.3</b>	83.0	87.8	<b>89.2</b>	<b>84.5</b>	84.6	86.2	<b>88.3</b>	<b>83.9</b>	83.8

(a) Strongly support and support.

In Queensland:

- In 1998, more than four in five Queenslanders supported increased penalties for **heroin** (84.8%), **amphetamines** (82.9%), and **cocaine** (83.9%). Support for increased penalties for **marijuana/cannabis** (58.8%) was much lower.
- When compared to 1995, levels of support for increased penalties were lower in 1998 for all substances.
- In 1998, males were less likely to support increased penalties for sale or supply of selected drugs than females; for example, **marijuana/cannabis** (males 55.6%, females 61.9%), and **heroin** (males 84.2%, females 85.3%).
- For both males and females, levels of support for increased penalties for sale or supply of selected illicit drugs decreased between 1995 and 1998. In general, reductions were between approximately 3 and 7 percentage points, for example, for females **marijuana/cannabis** dropped from 68.9% to 61.9% between 1995 and 1998.

Compared to the rest of Australia:

- Rates of support in Queensland for increased penalties for the sale or supply of selected illicit drugs were generally consistent with rates in the rest of Australia.